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Joan Martin-Banks/R3/USEPA/US 11/16/2005 11:28 AM To Louis Spinelli/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

СС

bcc

Subject Conopco, Inc. (Park Ave, NY, NY) dba Unilever HPC-USA may be the successor to Lever Bros. LEt me know what you find out.





Joan Martin-Banks/R3/USEPA/US 11/10/2005 04:33 PM

To Louis Spinelli/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

СС

bcc

Subject Unilever

Lou, thanks for the info on Wittstadt. It was just what I needed. When you get a chance, can you see when Lever Brothers Company, Inc. merged to form Unilever United States, Inc.? It may not have been a merger but just a name change. If os, I need the date that the name was changed. It it was a merger, I need to know who they merged with and the date. Unilever US, Inc. was incorporated on 8/31/77 in Delaware. Lever Brothers was around since 1890's. Thanks! As always, I am in your debt.

Joan





Joan Martin-Banks/R3/USEPA/US 11/15/2005 03:38 PM

To Louis Spinelli/R3/USEPA/US@EPA

CC

bcc

Subject Unilever

I found an item that said that Lever Brothers Company, Inc., Cheeseborough Ponds, and Helene Curtis merged in 1997 to form Unilever HPC-USA. Can you confirm this? see below

Unilever celebrates sixty-five years in Baltimore

10-23-03 - The Unilever Baltimore plant at 5300 Holabird Avenue is celebrating 65 years of service to the Baltimore community. The plant, which opened in 1938, produces the total national volume of Unilever's liquid laundry detergents and fabric softener brands: Wisk, Surf, 'all' and Snuggle.

At the time of its opening, the plant was operated by Unilever U.S. subsidiary Lever Brothers and employed 200 people. It now employs close to 500 mostly Baltimore and Harford County residents. Its employees serve more than 47,000 local families annually through outreach programs, volunteer initiatives, partnerships and more than \$500,000 worth of product donations within Baltimore.

In 1997, three Unilever subsidiaries - Lever Brothers, Chesebrough-Pond's and Helene Curtis - were combined under the name Unilever Home & Personal Care North America, the name by which the Baltimore plant is known today.

[top]

COPIGIAVAL



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Region III 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

NOV 1 8 2005

NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY
EMERGENCY REMOVAL ACTION
URGENT LEGAL MATTER: PROMPT REPLY REQUIRED
CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Conopco, Inc. dba Unilever HPC-USA 390 Park Avenue New York, NY 10022

Re: Sauer Dump, Lynhurst Road, Dundalk, Maryland

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter notifies Conopco, Inc. dba Unilever HPC-USA (hereinafter "you") that as a successor to Lever Brothers Company, Inc. you may incur, or may have incurred, liability under Section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), with respect to the Sauer Dump ("Site") located in Dundalk, Maryland. This letter also notifies you of potential response activities at the Site which you may be asked to perform or pay for at a later date if the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") performs them.

Under CERCLA, commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law, the EPA is responsible for responding to the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants into the environment – that is, for stopping further contamination from occurring and for cleaning up or otherwise addressing any contamination that has already occurred. EPA has documented that such a release has occurred at the Site. EPA has spent, or is considering spending, public funds to investigate and control releases of hazardous substances or potential releases of hazardous substances at the Site. Based on information presently available to EPA, EPA has determined that you may be responsible under CERCLA for cleanup of the Site or for costs EPA has incurred in cleaning up the Site.

EXPLANATION OF POTENTIAL LIABILITY

Under CERCLA, specifically Sections 106(a) and 107(a), potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") may be required to perform cleanup actions to protect the public health, welfare, or the environment. PRPs may also be responsible for costs incurred by EPA in cleaning up the Site,

unless the PRP can show divisibility or any of the other statutory defenses. PRPs include current and former owners and operators of a site, as well as persons who arranged for treatment and/or disposal of any hazardous substances found at the site, and persons who accepted hazardous substances for transport and selected the site to which the hazardous substances were delivered.

Based on the information collected, EPA believes that you may be liable under Section 107(a) (3) of CERCLA with respect to the Sauer Dump Site, as an arranger, who by contract or agreement, arranged for the disposal, treatment or transportation of hazardous substances at or to the Site.

SITE RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

To date, EPA and the State of Maryland have taken response actions at the Site under, inter alia, the authority of the Superfund Program. Below is a brief description of the actions taken at the Site.

A removal site evaluation has been completed and has revealed evidence of the release of hazardous substances at the Site. Contamination at the Site is present in the soils, groundwater, surface-water and sediments in the wetlands and adjacent shoreline areas. EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) conducted assessments at the Site during the period of 1985 to 2005. PCBs are present in the soil at concentrations as high as 33,000 parts per million (ppm (mg/kg)), while lead has been observed at concentrations up to 27,000 ppm. Surface water on the Site and adjacent wetlands indicates concentrations of PCB congeners as high as 3.4 micrograms per liter (ug/l) which is 100 times the USEPA National Recommended Water Quality Criterion Continuous Concentration (CCC). The CCC is an estimate of the highest concentration of a pollutant in surface water to which an aquatic community can be exposed indefinitely without resulting in a harmful effect.

Field investigations were conducted between 2001 through 2005 in order to develop a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS). Areas of exceptionally high PCB contamination were noted during these investigations. Observations from the test pits excavated at Sauer Dump indicate that the fill is made up of miscellaneous debris such as wood, plastic, metal, rubber, brick, sand, black sand/soil, concrete/concrete castings, asphalt, ash, paint/paint containers, batteries, crushed drums, railroad ties, Styrofoam, and a white/gray powdery substance. In one of these test pits, a suspected electrical transformer of approximately 35-gallon capacity was discovered. This transformer was leaking oil, which contaminated the adjacent soils with PCBs at a concentration of 33,000 ppm. Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of PCBs contaminated soil with over 25 ppm were identified by the RI. In March 2005, EPA inspected the Site and observed that areas of known heavy PCB and lead contamination were now exposed to the environment.

At present, EPA is planning to:

 Restrict access to those areas of the Site where high concentrations of PCBs are present at the soil surface.



- Determine the extent of PCB contamination in the sediments, soil, groundwater, surface-water and debris.
- Excavate and properly dispose of PCB-contaminated sediments, soil and debris found at the Site.
- Stabilize environmentally sensitive areas from further exposure and effects from PCB-contaminated "waste" and soil.
- Protect and isolate the contaminated area with an appropriate cover system and erosional protective features.
- Conduct a survey and additional sampling where necessary in and around the Site to determine if additional areas of PCB contaminated debris and soils exist.
- Stabilize, excavate, and restore additional areas where PCB contamination is present, if additional areas are identified.

EPA may expend additional funds for response activities at the Site under the authority of CERCLA and other laws.

DECISION NOT TO USE SPECIAL NOTICE

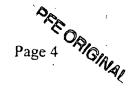
Under CERCLA Section 122(e), 42 U.S.C. § 9622(e), EPA has the discretionary authority to invoke special notice procedures to negotiate formally the terms of an agreement between EPA and PRPs to conduct or finance response activities. Use of these special notice procedures triggers a moratorium on certain EPA activities at the Site while formal negotiations between EPA and the PRP or PRPs are conducted.

In this case, EPA has decided not to invoke the Section 122(e) special notice procedures because use of such procedures is not practicable or in the public interest, nor would use of such procedures facilitate an agreement or expedite remedial action. It is EPA's policy not to use the special notice procedures for removals unless there is a six-month planning lead time after the decision to respond and prior to the initiation of the action. Since the planning lead time prior to the initiation of this response action is less than six months, special notice procedures will not be used. Nonetheless, EPA is willing to discuss settlement opportunities without invoking a moratorium, but will initiate the response action as planned if such discussions do not lead to settlement expeditiously.

PRP RESPONSE AND EPA CONTACT

You are encouraged to contact EPA in writing within five (5) calendar days of receipt of this letter to express your willingness or unwillingness to participate in future negotiations concerning this Site. You may respond individually or through a steering committee if such a committee has been formed.

If you are already involved in discussions with State or local authorities, engaged in voluntary action or involved in a lawsuit regarding this Site, you should not interpret this letter as advising or directing you to restrict or to discontinue any such activities. You should, however, report the status of those discussions or activities in your letter to EPA. Please provide EPA with a copy of your letter to any other party involved in those discussions.



Your response to this letter should be addressed to:

Richard Rupert, On Scene Coordinator (3HS31)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

The following information may be useful in your consideration of this matter:

INFORMATION TO ASSIST POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

EPA encourages good faith negotiations between the PRPs and EPA, as well as among the PRPs. Therefore, EPA is providing the following documents to assist you in your efforts to communicate:

- A list of the names and addresses of PRPs to whom this notification is being sent. This list represents EPA's preliminary findings on the identities of the PRPs for the Site. Inclusion on, or exclusion from, the list does not constitute a final determination by EPA concerning the liability of any party for the release or threat of release of hazardous substances at or from the Site.
- A fact sheet that describes the Site.

DE MINIMIS SETTLEMENTS

Under CERCLA § 122(g) of CERCLA, whenever practicable and in the public interest, EPA may offer special settlements to owners of real property if: (1) such owner did not conduct or permit the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, or disposal of any hazardous substances at the Superfund facility; and (2) the owner did not have actual or constructive knowledge that the property was used for the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, or disposal of any hazardous substance.

Individuals or businesses resolving their Superfund liability as de minimis parties are not typically required to perform site cleanup. Instead, EPA requires de minimis settlors to pay their fair share of cleanup costs incurred, plus a "premium" that accounts for, among other things, uncertainties associated with the costs of work to be performed in the future. In return, de minimis settlors receive: (1) a covenant not to sue, which is a promise that EPA will not bring any future legal action against the settling party for the specific matters addressed in the settlement; and (2) contribution protection, which provides a settling party with protection from being sued by other responsible parties for the specific matters addressed in the settlement. Participation in a de minimis settlement means that you are settling directly with EPA as soon as it is possible to do so.

If you believe that you may be eligible for a de minimis settlement at this Site, please contact Joan E. Martin Banks, Civil Investigator, at 215-814-3156 for additional information on "De Minimis Settlements."

PRP STEERING COMMITTEE

EPA recommends that all PRPs meet to select a "steering committee" that will be responsible for representing the group's interests. Establishing a manageable group is critical to successful negotiations with EPA. If this is not possible, EPA encourages each PRP to select one person from its company or organization to represent its interests to EPA.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

Pursuant to CERCLA Section 113(k), 42 U.S.C. §9613(k), EPA establishes an administrative record that contains documents which form the basis for EPA's decision on the selection of each response action for a site. A copy of the record for each response action selected for the Site will be available on the internet at www.epa.gov/arweb.. A copy of the Administrative Record is located near the Site at the North Point Library, 1716 Merritt Blvd., Dundalk, Maryland. A copy is also located at the EPA Regional Office in Philadelphia (point-of-contact is Anna Butch, 215-814-3157).

FUTURE FINANCIAL REVIEW

EPA is aware that the financial ability of some PRPs to contribute toward the payment of response costs at a site may be substantially limited. If you believe, and can document, that you fall within that category, please contact Joan E. Martin Banks for information on "Ability to Pay Settlements." In response, you will receive a package of information about the potential for such settlements and a form to fill out with information about your finances, and you will be asked to submit financial records including personal federal income tax returns. If EPA concludes that you have a legitimate inability to pay the full amount of EPA's costs, EPA may offer a schedule for payment over time or a reduction in the total amount demanded from you.

Also, please note that, because EPA has a potential claim against you, you must include EPA as a creditor if you file for bankruptcy.

Page 6 PIGINAL

Please give these matters your immediate attention and consideration. If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please contact Joan E. Martin Banks for information pursuant to the potentially responsible search at 215-814-3156. Technical questions can be referred to Richard Rupert, OSC, at 215-814-2879. Legal questions should be referred to Benjamin M. Cohan, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, at 215-814-2618. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Karen Melvin, Associate Director

Jain melven

Office of Enforcement

Hazardous Site Cleanup Division

Enclosures: 1. List of Prior Recipients of General Notice Letters for this Site

2. Fact Sheet

cc: James Carroll, MDE
Benjamin Cohan, Esq. (3RC42)

Richard Rupert, OSC (3HS31)

Lois Lauria (3HS 42)

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